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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,599	06/10/2002	Michael James Durack	13869.22	9711
22913	7590	10/07/2004		
WORKMAN NYDEGGER (F/K/A WORKMAN NYDEGGER & SEELEY) 60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE 1000 EAGLE GATE TOWER SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111				
			EXAMINER LECHERT JR, STEPHEN J	
			ART UNIT 1732	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/049,599		DURACK, MICHAEL JAMES	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Stephen J. Lechert Jr.		1732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 15, 16 and 18-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 June 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8-12 and 9-3-2002</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim 14 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 14, line 2, "moult" should be --mold--. Appropriate correction is required. In claim 17, line 3, "the interior of e said", delete "e".

2. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for an apparatus which includes a mold having at least one apertured wall, and having and inlet port, and having a pressure inducer, does not reasonably provide enablement for providing a process wherein the excess water is express from the paste or slurry by a volumetric expansion within the material. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to provide a process of dewatering employing volumetric expansion wherein the shape and/or volume of the article or the material remains substantially the same throughout the dewatering process. This concept is especially baffling in claims 2-4, wherein the method employs expandable cores and the mechanical element can be

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extendible projections which would change the volume of the article and not be substantially the same as discussed in Specification, Page 4, lines 6-10.

3. Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claims 21-24 applicant has recited "...whenever produced" instead of "produced" applicant, should delete the "whenever" recitation. In claim 24, applicant has drafted the claim as a product produced by the apparatus. This is not a correct preamble. Applicant should recite "A product produced by the method utilizing the apparatus of claim 13." Suitable correction is required.

4. Claims 13-20 drawn to the apparatus are free of the prior art. With respect to the method claims, examination is precluded without explanation of how the volume of the article remains substantially the same if expandable core member or extendable projections in the mold with the material to be dewatered. It would seem that something expanding or something which is projected into the

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material in the mold would reduce the volume of the material and not permitting the article or the material volume to be substantially the same.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen J. Lechert Jr. whose telephone number is 571-272-1203. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Colaianne can be reached on 571-272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Stephen J. Lechert Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732